

What Is Claimed Is:

1. A storage operational system for administrating computers and storage devices connected to the computers comprising:

5 a means for getting information on current status of storage usage of said storages;

a means for getting users' set-up requirements for said storages;

a means for creating proposed set-ups for storage spaces on said storages based on said set-up requirements by the users and said information on current status of storage usage of said storages;

a means for setting prices to be charged to the users for said created proposed set-ups of said storage spaces on said storages;

a means for the users to select any of said created proposed set-ups of said storage spaces on said storages;

a means for setting said storage spaces on said storages depending on the selection; and

20 a means for presenting next-best proposed set-ups satisfying partially users' requirements for storage set-ups even if all of said users' requirements are not satisfied.

2. A storage operational system according to Claim 1, wherein when said proposed set-ups satisfying partially the

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users' requirements are created and presented to the users, the result from comparison with the users' requirements for set-ups are displayed simultaneously.

3. A storage operational system according to Claim 1,
5 wherein said storage operational system comprises:

a means for negotiating with other users about conditions for using the storages to change set-ups for said storages assigned to said users;

a means for changing said set-ups of said storages assigned to said users based on the result from negotiation; and

a means for applying discount prices for usages of said storages when they are rented to other users.

4. A storage operational system for administrating computers and the storages connected to the computers comprising:

a means for monitoring current status of storage usage;

a means for creating proposed set-ups for said storages based on said current status of storage usage at any time; and

a means for presenting said proposed set-ups to the users at
20 any time.

5. A storage operational system further comprising:

a means for detecting any change in said current status of storage usage; and

a means for presenting said proposed set-ups to the users

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depending on the change in said current status of storage usage.

6. A method of providing storage rental services for the storage operational system, which administers the computers and the storages connected to the computers, comprising the procedures of:

getting information on said current status of storage usage of said storages;

getting the users' set-up requirements for said storages; creating proposed set-ups for storage spaces on said storages based on said set-up requirements by the users and said information on current status of storage usage of said storages for presenting to the users;

setting prices to be charged to the users for the said created; proposed set-ups of said storage spaces on said storages;

making the users select any of said created, proposed set-ups of said storage spaces on said storages; and

setting said storage spaces on said storages depending on the selection,

wherein next-best proposed set-ups satisfying partially said users' requirements for set-ups are created by following said procedure for creating proposed set-ups if all of said requirements cannot be satisfied, and are presented them to the users.

7. A method for providing the storage rental services

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according to Claim 6, wherein said method comprises a procedure for allowing the system to present the result from comparison with users' requirements for set-ups simultaneously when creating the proposed set-ups satisfying partially said users' requirements for set-ups and presenting them to the users.

8. A method for providing the storage rental services according to Claim 6, wherein said method comprises the procedures of:

negotiating with other users about modification to the use conditions for storages assigned them to change the set-ups for said storages assigned to the existing users;

changing the set-ups for storages assigned to other users depending on the result from negotiation; and

applying discount prices for the usages of said storages by the other users based on modification to the set-ups.

9. A method for providing storage rental services for the storage operational system, which administers the computers and the storages connected to the computers comprising the procedures of:

monitoring said current status of storage usage; and
creating the proposed set-ups for said storages based on said current status of storage usage at any time,

wherein the proposed set-ups for said storages are presented to all the users of said storage operational system as service

products.

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